

Pilot Project Overview and Status Report

Presentation to Joint Legislative Task Force on Mitigation

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**We manage water resources to meet the
needs of people and the natural
environment, in partnership with
Washington communities.**



WATER for PEOPLE, FARMS & FISH

Statutory directive

RCW 90.94.090(8) The department shall issue **permit decisions** for up to five water resource mitigation pilot projects. It is the intent of the legislature to use the pilot projects to inform the legislative task force process while also enabling the processing of water right applications that address water supply needs.



Additional context

- The pilot projects eligible for processing under this section, based on criteria as of January 19, 2018, include:
 - Three cities operating group A water systems in Kitsap, Pierce, and Thurston counties
 - A nonprofit mutual water system operating a group A water system in Pierce county
 - An irrigation district located in Whatcom county, solely for the purpose of processing changes of water rights from surface water to groundwater, and implementing flow augmentation to benefit instream flows.
- By November 15, 2018, the department must furnish the task force with information on conceptual mitigation plans for each water resource mitigation pilot project application.



Pilot projects

- City of Yelm
- City of Sumner
- City of Port Orchard
- Spanaway Water Company
- Ag Water Board of Whatcom County

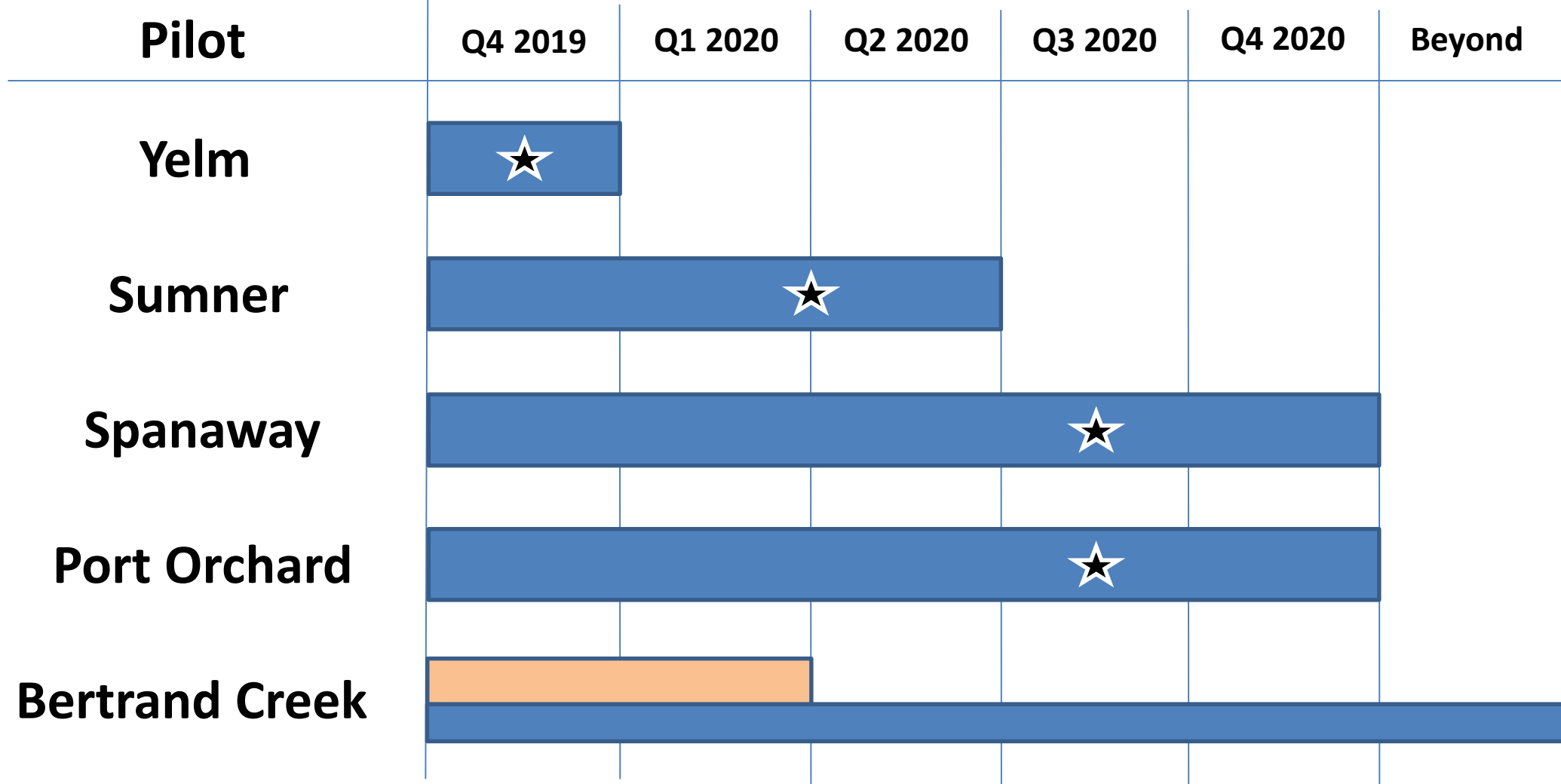


From 2018 Task Force update (next steps)

- Ecology will coordinate check-in meetings with all five pilots by the end of March 2019 (completed)
- Applicants' technical consultants will prepare draft Report of Examination under Cost-Reimbursement process (in progress)
- Ecology must monitor the implementation of the pilot projects, including all mitigation associated with each pilot project, at least annually through December 31, 2028 (not started)



Draft ROE Submission to Ecology



★ - Draft mitigation plan completion

Takeaways to date

- Even with additional flexibility provided under RCW 90.94.090, completing new or change applications is complex
- Finding existing valid water rights to acquire within urbanized watersheds is extremely challenging
- Hydrogeologic models can simulate impacts that extend far beyond our ability to physically measure those impacts, adding to the overall challenge of mitigating





Questions?
Thank you for your time!

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